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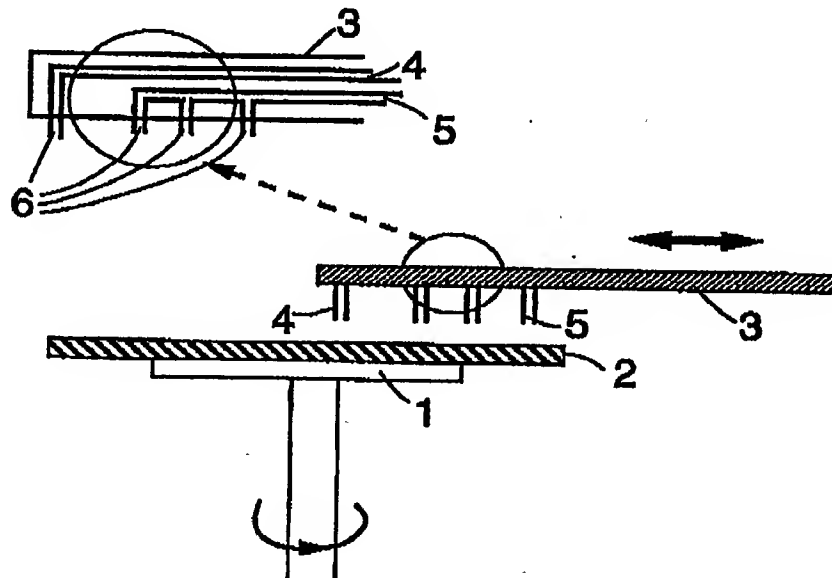
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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/BE98/00140 (22) International Filing Date: 24 September 1998 (24.09.98) (30) Priority Data: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>60/059,929</td> <td>24 September 1997 (24.09.97)</td> <td>US</td> </tr> <tr> <td>98870056.3</td> <td>20 March 1998 (20.03.98)</td> <td>EP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60/079,688</td> <td>27 March 1998 (27.03.98)</td> <td>US</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60/098,038</td> <td>27 August 1998 (27.08.98)</td> <td>US</td> </tr> </table> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): INTERUNIVERSITAIR MICRO-ELEKTRONICA CENTRUM VERENIGING ZONDER WINSTBEJAG [BE/BE]; Kapeldreef 75, B-3001 Heverlee (BE). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): MERTENS, Paul [BE/BE]; Beverdijk 34, B-3150 Haacht (BE). MEURIS, Marc [BE/BE]; Domien Lickenslaan 27, B-3140 Keerbergen (BE). HEYNS, Marc [BE/BE]; Merelnest 14, B-3210 Linden (BE). (74) Agents: VAN MALDEREN, Joëlle et al.; Office Van Malderen, Place Reine Fabiola 6/1, B-1083 Brussels (BE).</p> </p>		60/059,929	24 September 1997 (24.09.97)	US	98870056.3	20 March 1998 (20.03.98)	EP	60/079,688	27 March 1998 (27.03.98)	US	60/098,038	27 August 1998 (27.08.98)	US	<p>(81) Designated States: JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i></p>
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REMOVING A LIQUID FROM A SURFACE



(57) Abstract

A method and an apparatus for removing a liquid, i.e. a wet processing liquid, from at least one surface of at least one substrate is disclosed. A liquid is supplied on a surface of substrate. Simultaneously or thereafter the liquid or the substrate is locally heated to thereby reduce the surface tension of said liquid. By doing so, at least locally a sharply defined liquid-ambient boundary is created. According to the invention, the substrate is subjected to a rotary movement at a speed to guide said liquid-ambient boundary over the surface of the substrate thereby removing said liquid from said surface.